

Några runonomastiska bidrag av Anders Celsius

Summary

Some contributions to runic onomastics by Anders Celsius

By Magnus Källström

This article is devoted to onomastic problems arising from three Uppland rune stones, to which solutions may be found in a number of previously overlooked drawings and notes in Olof Celsius's collections in Uppsala University Library (primarily the manuscript R 555). Several of the drawings originate from Olof Celsius's famous nephew, the physicist and astronomer Anders Celsius.

The first example concerns a long-lost rune stone from Tiby in Börje parish (U 915), the inscription on which was hitherto only known from a woodcut by Johan Leitz (B 440, Fig. 1). According to this representation, the inscription began with the sequence of runes **suaini**, which is interpreted in *Upplands runinskrifter* as a misreading for **suain Svæinn**. Evert Salberger (1978, pp. 152 ff.) later persuasively argues that it is instead an instance of the rare name *Svæini*. The manuscript R 555 includes two previously unknown drawings of this stone (Figs. 2 and 3), probably by Olof and Anders Celsius, respectively. They show quite clearly that the first name was in fact **suain**, i.e. the common name *Svæinn*, and that Leitz's reading of an **i**-rune must be due to his having misinterpreted a detail in the ornamentation.

The second example consists of the opening name on the rune stone U 1174 at Stora Ramsjö in Vittinge parish, which in *Upplands runinskrifter* is read as **kunu--** and left untranslated. Anders Celsius recorded this inscription in early May 1726, reading it instead as **munul...r** (Fig. 4), which suggests that we are concerned here with the rare name *Munulfr*. This reading can still be confirmed on the stone itself, although the final **r**-rune also looks as if it could be part of an intersecting ornamental band (Fig. 5).

Finally, the author considers a now-lost rune stone from Rasbo Church (U 1000), whose inscription has been assumed to lack linguistic meaning. A previously overlooked drawing by Anders Celsius from September 1726 (Fig. 7) presumably offers a much better reading of the inscription than the one hitherto known. Although it is possible to find certain sequences of runes in this drawing that could correspond to real personal names (for instance, the opening sequence **aisti** = the man's name *Æisti?*), it still seems most likely that the stone is after all to be regarded as an example of a non-lexical runic inscription.